

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE EARLY MORNING COFFEE SPRINT ON 8 SEPTEMBER

THE SARL NATIONAL FIELD DAY NEXT WEEKEND

and

MORE ON THE TYPE APPROVAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

THE EARLY MORNING COFFEE SPRINT

The second leg of the Early Morning Coffee Sprint will run from 03:00 to 05:00 UTC (05:00 to 07:00 CAT) on Wednesday 8 September 2021 with phone activity on 80 metres. The exchange is your call sign, a realistic RS report and your age. A QSO with a pensioner counts 2 points and a QSO with a non-pensioner counts 1 point. Log Sheets in MS Excel format must be submitted by 23:59 CAT on Monday 13 September 2021 by e-mail to zs3vdk@webmail.co.za. Find the rules on page 81 of the Blue Book.

2021 ARRL HANDBOOK AND ANTENNA BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

The SA Amateur Radio Development Trust online bookshop has the 2021 ARRL HANDBOOK in soft cover format in stock as well as a version in six volumes. The New Antenna Book is available in a boxed set. The other new arrival is the RSGB Software Designed Radio book. For order details and more information about the books visit www.amateurradio.org.za.

RECENT IARU REGION 1 POLITICAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The IARU Region 1 Political Relations Committee (PRC) has responded to two recent European Commission consultations to promote the amateur radio viewpoint. In the case of the consultation on 'Designing mobile phones and tablets to be sustainable – eco-design' the PRC decided that the most appropriate response was in the form of a written submission.

In the second instance, the consultation on the Delegated Act under the RED on the subject of 'Internet-connected radio equipment and wearable radio equipment', the IARU response was one of 26 received by the Commission. The Delegated Act aims at strengthening the security of internet-connected devices, most of which are expected to be part of the Internet of Things, and of wearable radio equipment. However, the IARU has concerns as to how the Act will be implemented and how it might affect amateur radio.

THE SARL NATIONAL FIELD DAY

The second leg of the SARL National Field Day runs from 08:00 UTC (10:00 CAT) on Saturday 11 September to 06:00 UTC (08:00 CAT) on Sunday 12 September 2021. The aim of the Field Day is to work as many stations in Southern Africa as possible on all the HF amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17 and 12 m bands). Phone, CW and any digital mode that can send the full exchange may be used. The exchange is the number of transmitters at your station, the Field Day operating class and your Provincial or country abbreviation.

You can participate as a Field Station, Multi operator; Field Station, Multi operator, QRP; Field Station, Single Operator; Field Station, Single Operator, QRP; Ultra-Light Portable station; Backyard Stations or a General Station. Logs in ADIF, Cabrillo with a summary sheet or MS Excel format must be submitted by 23:59 CAT on Friday 17 September 2021 by e-mail to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za. Turn to page 88 of the Blue Book for the rules.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

MORE ON THE TYPE APPROVAL DRAFT REGULATIONS

The SARL had more discussions with ICASA this week and is now preparing a further response to the Draft Regulations and the outcome of the recent public hearing. Home built amateur radio equipment will, under the new regulations, once promulgated, not require notification. The sticky point is with commercial manufactured equipment that will still need to be approved. ICASA is however coming around to the concept of self-conformity testing which means the importer can submit a test certificate obtained by the manufacturer from any accredited test Laboratory in the country of manufacture or anywhere else in the world. A similar process is followed in the USA and Europe.

The SARL has also pointed out that the long delays in finalising and publishing the Regulations is a serious draw back for South Africa radio amateurs and has requested that an urgent meeting be arranged to discuss an interim solution.

SARL NEXT GENERATION BEACON FUND STANDS AT R26 500

The crowd funding initiative to collect funds for the SARL Next Generation Beacon Programme was initiated by AMSAT SA. During the past week R1 300 was received from three donors including one from the UK. The fund moved

from R25 200 to R26 500 which is still far short of the R60 000 target required to finance a beacon in the Karoo and the Western Cape.

Good progress is being made on a site in the Karoo with a MOU about to be signed between the SARL, the owner of the farm and a company that manages the tower facilities. During the past few weeks there have been some interesting developments in the reverse beacon network project where remote receivers will report and send decoded information to a website in real time, which opens many more possibilities.

AMSAT SA and the SARL thank all who have thus far contributed. Help us to make it happen by donating to the fund and reach the target of R60 000 over the next month. A list of donors is available from the link on www.sarl.org.za. Visit www.amsatsa.org.za and make your contribution by clicking on one of the payment buttons for a R50, R250 or R1 000 donation. The button will take you to the Payfast website where you need to enter your credit card details. Please also add your call sign after your surname. Visit the Next Generation Beacon web page for articles, videos, updates and a list of donors. There are links on the SARL and AMSAT SA home pages.

CONTEST NEWS

The second leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest will take place from 05:00 to 11:00 UTC on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 September. Get all the rules on page 47 of the Blue Book.

Thirty-one logs were received for the SARL 40 m Grid Square Sprint held on 28 August. The checking process is on the go and the results will be published in HF Happenings 963 in the coming week.

Eight logs were received for the SARL HF CW Contest held on Sunday 29 August 2021

Club Results

1st the Bloemfontein ARC – 88 points

2nd the Cape Radio Group – 58 points

3rd the Lichtenburg ARC – 56 points

Single Operator Single Band

1st Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE – 56 points

2nd Charles le Roux, ZS1CF – 36 points

Single Operator All Band

1st Jan Botha, ZS4JAN – 88 points

2nd Ludwig Combrinck, ZS5CN – 68 points

3rd Celso Moreira, ZS1MYG and Chris de Beer, ZR6C – 58 points

CLUB NEWS

The East Rand Radio Club Flea market will be held from 09:00 - 12:00 CAT on Saturday 2 October 2021 at Ebenezer Road, Arrowe Park Benoni. Bookings for a table or car boot at R20 can be made at zs6erb@gmail.com or call ZS6JDY on 064 543 7252 to book. Sausage rolls and cold drinks will be on sale and all Covid Protocols will be observed.

HF PROPAGATION AT THE EQUINOX

Here comes Spring, the time of year when the southern hemisphere emerges from winter and looking forward to spring on the HF bands. At the same time, the northern hemisphere amateurs are finishing their summertime HF doldrums. Right in the middle of this transition is September's vernal equinox for the southern hemisphere and the autumnal equinox for the northern hemisphere. What effect does the equinox have on HF propagation? Read the article in HF Happenings 963 to be published in the coming week.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels. There are currently two sunspot regions visible and some minor C-class flaring activity is possible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around eight. During the early mornings and late afternoons, the 15 to 30 m bands may provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

6 to 8 September – Rosh Hashanah

8 September – The Early Morning Coffee Sprint

11 and 12 September – The SARL National Field Day and the Worked All Europe SSB contest

13 September – The West Rand ARC meeting

15 September – The SARL 80 m Wednesday Club Sprint

15 and 16 September – Yom Kippur

18 September – The Magalies and Highway ARC meetings

18 and 19 September – The SARL VHF/UHF Digital contest

21 September – the PEARS and Border ARC meetings

22 September - the Spring Equinox at 21:21 CAT

24 September – Heritage and National Braai Day; the ZS SOTA Spring Activity Day and registration for the October RAE closes

25 September – the CTARC meeting

25 and 26 September – the CQ WW RTTY contest

26 September – the ZS1 Sprint

28 September – the Secunda ARC meeting

1 October – the Provincial Schools close

2 October – the East Rand Flea Market

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our leading news story:

The second leg of the Early Morning Coffee Sprint will run from 03:00 to 05:00 UTC (05:00 to 07:00 CAT) on Wednesday 8 September 2021 with phone activity on 80 metres. The exchange is your call sign, a realistic RS report and your age.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by

From the News team, best wishes for the week ahead.